

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the EDITOR OF VARSITY :

DEAR SIR,—Nothing seems to have resulted from the discussion which appeared in your columns last term in regard to the proposed plans for Commencement in June. May I ask whether these plans cannot be put into practical form? Their failure to mature would be most unfortunate.

Both Alumni and Professors who are familiar with student life, past and present, in Toronto and elsewhere, agree in affirming strongly that what our Toronto men need more than anything else is to feel that they are part of the University. The lack of this feeling explains part of the difficulty which is found in maintaining student organizations, and the apathy with which our Graduates treat the University. We are told that they have a strong, quiet, deep-rooted love for their *Alma Mater*. That may be true, but this love should be demonstrative, not quiet, it should be warm and burning as well as strong. To be sure the blame is thrown, and with much reason, on the lack of a dormitory system. If we lived in residence, doubtless, Commencement festivities would come spontaneously and without organization. But that is all the more reason for our rousing ourselves to see that our parting from our *Alma Mater* is of a fitting nature. Let us show her that we at least are not afraid to own the debt which we owe her.

For this purpose a committee should be organized and supported heartily by the entire Senior class. There is some tale of an Arts dance, separate from conversat. Cannot this be placed in Commencement week? The Alumni dinner is now an established festival, and should be well supported. The class of '84 has undertaken to raise \$18,000 for the Convocation Hall. Cannot the class of '03 assume some share of the work of raising this money?

The success of Class Day Exercises will depend entirely on the originality of those in charge, and the preparation made by those who take part. We work pretty hard at Toronto, and do not easily take to recreation; but Horace tells us that "Sweet it is to play the fool upon occasion," and surely we can lay aside our cares for a few hours and join with our classmates in recalling the long and interesting chapters of our class history. Class Day Exercises include a class history, class prophecy and an ivy oration, if the class leaves a root of ivy to decorate its mother's walls.

There are many difficulties in the way of organizing extensive Commencement exercises; these, however, can be overcome, and if a successful programme is arranged, other Years will not be slow to adopt it.

I remain,

Very respectfully yours,

H. MAURICE DARLING.

TORONTO, January 15, 1903.

Some men take the poison route,
While some jump in the lake,
And others get a gun and shoot,
And some gas treatment take.
By cigarettes some get hence,
Some on the thin ice slide,
While others go to more expense
And take an auto ride.

—Krishno, Toledo High School.

A SHAKESPEARE CIPHER.

RECENT investigations have brought to light some new facts in the disputed question of the Shakespearean cipher. For many years the wise ones have tried to prove that Bacon was Shakespeare or that he wasn't, according to the point of view. The discoveries which have just been made show that the immortal bard was a Pythagorean, and that, by means of a cipher, he foretold the coming of his soul in another body, under the name of Sardonius. We give the cipher as it was devised by Shakespeare. It will be seen that he so entitled his plays that the second last letters should spell the name of the future poet :

The TempeSt.
Midsummer-Night's DreAm.
Measure for MeasuRe.
Troilus and CressiDa.
Merry Wives of WindsOr.
Two Gentlemen of VeroNa.
As You Like It.
CoriolanUs.
Loves Labours LoSt.

In proof of the correctness of this cipher it is stated that just as Pythagoras was able to go to Greece and take down from the temple wall the arms of Achilles, who had had his soul in a previous age, so can Sardonius now go to the book-shelf and take down a volume of Shakespeare's works without having them pointed out to him previously.

POLITICAL SCIENCE CLUB.

The meeting of the Political Science Club on Thursday last was attended by a large and appreciative audience. The programme consisted of an address by Mr. John A. Ewan, on "Some Impressions of the Coal Strike." Mr. Ewan spent several weeks in the coal districts of Pennsylvania as special correspondent of *The Globe*, and is well qualified to speak on the subject. He sketched the history of the strike. The recognition of the union was made the main issue by the miners, who asked for arbitration, while the operators declared there was nothing to arbitrate. The speaker gave a graphic description of the social conditions of the mining settlements and of the grievances of the men, which showed very plainly that there was much need for investigation and arbitration. In the contest between the strikers and operators the leader of the miners, John Mitchell, clearly both out-generalled and outwrote the operators. The men lost more in the strike than they could gain in thirty years by increased wages, but they were fighting and sacrificing themselves for principle and for the good of their descendants. There was disorder and lawlessness, but nothing else could be expected under the circumstances, although Mr. Mitchell did all he could to restrain his followers. The lesson of the strike was that some means must be found to compel settlement of labor disputes in the interests of the public.

At the next meeting of the club the programme will consist of reports of summer work and of the excursions, by members of the club.

THE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

The Philosophical Society held its regular meeting on Friday afternoon in room 4, with Mr. Nicol in the chair. The programme consisted of a paper by Mr. J. Baird, '03 on some aspects of Kant's philosophy. The subject was treated in a clear and thoughtful manner by the essayist. A discussion followed which was participated in by Messrs. D. P. Rees, Chrystal, Hendrie, Carter, Prof. Hume and Mr. Tracy.